NGC Certifies Miller Collection of Early Dollars

Posted on 12/1/2002

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Nearly every known variety is represented in Dr. Miller's set, and NGC has attributed each of his coins by Bowers/Borckardt numbers (*Silver Dollars & Trade Dollars of the United States: A Complete Encyclopedia*). NGC's Research Director, David W. Lange, was delighted that Miller selected NGC to showcase his fine collection. "Seeing so many rare varieties side by side is a wonderful learning opportunity," Lange noted. "Though NGC has attributed and graded a large number of early dollars in recent years, some of the scarcer varieties are appearing in our *Census Report* for the first time courtesy of the Miller Collection."

Among the outstanding rarities featured in this assemblage is 1795 Flowing Hair variety BB-16 (Bolender-20). The Miller specimen is believed to be the finest of just three known, and NGC certified it as VG-10. Another rare Flowing Hair variety is BB-28, discovered just a few years ago and unique to the Miller Collection. It too grades NGC VG-10. The rare 1794 silver dollar, of which just a single variety is known, is represented in this collection by the famed Walter H. Childs specimen, which NGC graded XF-40. Easily the centerpiece of the Miller Collection is his specimen, ex Eliasberg, of the unique BB-17 (B-18). NGC graded this magnificent coin an impressive AU-58.

The two rarest varieties of the Draped Bust silver dollar are BB-62 (B-3) and BB-64 (B-6). Both are found within the Miller Collection, the former certified by NGC as VF-25 and the latter grading VF-35. The exact number of BB-62 silver dollars in existence was uncertain when the Bowers/Borckardt encyclopedia was published in 1993, but the Miller coin is now believed to be unique. BB-64 is distinctive for its dramatically shattered reverse die, and Dr. Miller's coin is the finest of just three examples known.

Among Draped Bust dollars having the Heraldic Eagle reverse, the three rarest varieties (BB-253/B-2 likely does not exist) are all represented within the Miller Collection. BB-91 (B-32) is represented by a VF-30 example, making it among the finer pieces known. Fewer than ten survivors are known of BB-103 (B-18), and Miller's coin has been graded G-6 by NGC. His BB-117 (B-33) is one of just three pieces known and the finest of the late die state having a bisecting crack across the reverse.

Dr. Miller was very pleased with the company's handling of his collection: "NGC clearly appreciated the quality of these coins. The originality of their surfaces appeals to me, and I believe that they likewise took this into consideration."

Outstanding condition rarities within the Miller Collection include examples of BB-73 (B-1) and BB-94 (B-3), both certified by NGC as MS-63. BB-158 (B-16), though one of the more common varieties, is represented in the Miller Collection by a nearly gem MS-64 specimen.

A true collector, Warren Miller acquired a number of remarkable error coins, too. These include off-centered and double-struck pieces. Flipover double strikes, among the most desired of mint error types, are also found within this comprehensive set of dollars.

Speaking on behalf of NGC's grading team, Chairman and CEO Mark Salzberg added, "It was quite an opportunity to examine so many early dollars at one time. There are subtleties to these coins that are best appreciated when seen together. I'm very pleased that Warren Miller entrusted NGC with his collection. It was a gratifying experience for everyone involved."

Dr. Miller's advisor in assembling this collection has been coin dealer Jess Lipka of New Jersey. "Perhaps the highest honor of my numismatic career has been the opportunity to assist Dr. Miller with the formation of this fabulous collection" Lipka said. "No museum or collector in all history has assembled as many different varieties. This assemblage must be seen to be believed."

It will be seen, as the Dr. Warren Miller Collection of early United States silver dollars will be on display at NGC's table during the January 9-12 convention and coin show of the Florida United Numismatists in Orlando. A complete listing of these coins appears in NGC's online census at www.NGCcoin.com, and they will be included in the January edition of NGC's hardcopy *Census Report*. A copy of this report may be ordered for $25, postpaid. An annual subscription to this quarterly report is $80, postpaid.

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NGC Defines its Policy on Pedigrees

Posted on 12/1/2002

Many collectors gain greater appreciation for a coin when its provenance may be linked to a prominent collector of the past. Names such as Eliasberg, Norweb, Garrett and Pittman provide an additional sense of history to even the most ordinary coin, and true numismatists seek to preserve this important record of previous ownership.

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The only drawback to this policy is that this adds further lines of text to our *Census Report*. We've received some complaints from collectors and dealers about having to read down several lines to determine just what is a particular coin's certified population. While this is true also of NGC's variety listings, the main argument seems to be against pedigrees. After giving the matter considerable thought, we've established some guidelines for pedigree inclusion.

Since names such as those listed above are of interest to a large number of collectors and dealers, we will continue to include them both on the coin label and in our *Census Report*. The same will apply to important coin hoard names such as Binion and Redfield, which likewise have a broad appeal. At NGC's discretion, we will continue to apply less significant pedigree and promotional names to the coin's label, but this supplemental information will not be included in the online and hardcopy editions of our *Census Report*. These coins will appear within the regular listing for their particular dates and mints.

Examples of names that may be included on the label alone are NGC Registry Set names, personalizations (such as the name of a relative or your hometown) and pedigrees of collections that are not of long-term significance to numismatics. To be documented in NGC's *Census Report* a pedigree must, in the opinion of NGC, be of lasting value to numismatics or record previous ownership by a person of established importance to history (ex: Andrew Jackson, Matthew Perry). Since such perceptions do change over time, it is possible that coins presently receiving a separate listing may be relocated to the general population in the future.

This policy will take several months to fully implement, so you may notice some contradictions during this period. If you have any questions about which pedigrees and supplemental text qualifies for NGC's *Census Report*, you may direct these to NGC Research Director David W. Lange.

For raw coin submissions and Crossover submissions, pedigrees will be applied (at NGC's discretion) for no additional charge. Simply include this information on the submission form. For coins already certified by NGC, pedigrees may be applied using NGC's Designation Review service. The fee for this service is $10, which includes the cost of reholdering the coin.

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NGC Grading Onsite at The FUN Show

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$100 Same Day Special:
$100 per coin for all coins over $1,500 in value

$50 Same Day Special:
$50 per coin for all coins valued at $1,500 or less

$30 Same Day Gold Show Special:
$30 per coin for all Gold coins valued at $1,000 or less.

On Tuesday January 7, submissions for $100, $50 and Gold Same Day services will be accepted from 2:00 to 6:00pm at The Omni Rosen Hotel for Lot 1 to be processed Wednesday, January 8. *Please contact Customer Service for specific location as location may be subject to change.* Submissions will be accepted prior to setup from 9:00am to 1:00pm on January 8 at The Omni Rosen Hotel. In addition, submissions for Same Day services will be accepted during regular show hours on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, January 8-10. Coins submitted prior to daily cut-off times will be returned before the close of the show. Please check with NGC show representatives for daily cut-off times.

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December 29th 2002 through January 3rd 2003 only*
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*December 29th 2002 through January 3rd 2003 only**

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Economy Special
Submit eligible coins for NGC's Economy Service during the dates above and receive coins at set-up on Wednesday, January 8th.
Just $25 per coin!

WalkThrough Special
Submit coins for NGC's WalkThrough Service during the dates above at NGC's show prices.
$50 per coin (for coins valued at $1,500 or less)
$100 per coin (for coins valued at over $1,500)

Clearly indicate on your submission form that you are participating in the PRE-FUN SPECIAL.

* Payment must accompany coins upon receipt at NGC.

Please address questions to NGC Customer Service 1.800.642.2646

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